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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES  
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM M. ANDERSON  
DIRECTOR

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Dear Michigan Colleagues,

I believe culture, broadly defined, is an untapped economic development resource. When appropriately engaged, at local, regional and statewide levels, our state's cultural resources can leverage significant new tax revenue, provide good paying jobs, and create sustainable enterprise.

Michigan's current challenges demand that every sector share its resources toward strengthening our economy and enhancing our quality of life. I have therefore made every effort to make certain the cultural sector is included as a full partner in these endeavors.

It is well documented that the projects, programs and organizations networked with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) alone generate more than 32,000 jobs on an annual basis. Moreover, it was recently reported that the state's overall cultural sector generates more than 108,000 jobs and \$2 billion in economic activity. I believe, with strategic investment, planning, education and training these numbers could double in five years!

Over the last several months, HAL has led the creation of a new comprehensive strategy for cultural economic development. Our goal is for Michigan's cultural sector to reach its economic potential and will be achieved through accomplishment of the following:

- Developing research-based practice and management
- Supporting cultural magnets
- Growing entrepreneurship and jobs
- Fostering community cultural economic development
- Building human capital
- Growing partnerships and collaborations

Enclosed is the *Cultural Economic Development Strategy* to leverage Michigan's talent and cultural assets to spur economic growth and build community prosperity. It was developed through the collective efforts of many individuals reflecting the state's cultural, business, education and government sectors. I take this opportunity to thank them for their participation and dedication. This effort is a starting point, not an end. I consider the Strategy a living document and part of an ongoing sector developmental process. As an immediate next step, an accompanying detailed implementation plan will be crafted with broad-based public input.

I encourage you to carefully review the *Cultural Economic Development Strategy* and join with the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, and our many partners, in its implementation. I welcome your comments. Only the contribution of your special talents, skills, and resources will ensure its success!

Sincerely,

William M. Anderson  
Director

Enclosure